

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 6, 22 and 27-29 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 7, 14 and 20 are amended in this document.

Claims 1-5, 7-20 and 23-26 are pending.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:  
identifying multiple policies to be combined together;  
determining whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies;  
adding non-conflicting policies to a merged policy set;  
resolving conflicting policies by selecting a preferred policy based on an  
allowed range of policy values; and

including the preferred policy in the merged policy set by

arranging conflicting policy templates from global policies to local  
policies, the arranging act creating a listing that includes a global policy  
template at one end and a local policy template at another end;

determining an intersection of the conflicting policy templates, at  
least a plurality of the conflicting policy templates falling at least partially  
within the intersection; and

selecting the preferred policy template based on the intersection of  
the conflicting policy templates.

2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the preferred  
policy represents a preferred range of values associated with at least one of the  
multiple policies.

1           3.     (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising  
2 determining an allowed range of values associated with the multiple policies.

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4           4.     (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the  
5 preferred policy is contained within the allowed range of values associated with  
6 the multiple policies.

7  
8           5.     (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 further  
9 comprising deleting policies that are outside the allowed range of values, wherein  
10 the allowed range of values is associated with the multiple policies.

11  
12          6.     (Canceled)

13  
14          7.     (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein  
15 selecting a preferred policy includes:

16           ~~arranging conflicting policy templates in order from global policies to local~~  
17 ~~policies;~~

18           ~~determining an intersection of the conflicting policy templates; and~~

19           selecting the preferred policy template based on the policy template closest  
20 to the local policies and within the intersection of the conflicting policy templates.

21  
22          8.     (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the policies are  
23 event-handling policies.

1           9.     (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the policies define  
2 how a device is to be configured.

3  
4           10.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the policies  
5 identify the types of events that are provided to each device.

6  
7           11.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein resolving  
8 conflicting policies includes comparing related policies individually.

9  
10          12.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the method is  
11 implemented by a management module.

12  
13          13.   (Original) One or more computer-readable memories containing a  
14 computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited  
15 in claim 1.

16  
17          14.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:  
18 identifying multiple policies to be combined together;  
19 determining whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies;  
20 adding non-conflicting policies to a merged policy set;  
21 arranging conflicting policies from global policies to local policies, the  
22 arranging act creating a listing that includes a global policy at one end and a local  
23 policy at another end;

24          determining an intersection of the conflicting policies, at least a plurality of  
25 the conflicting policies falling at least partially within the intersection; and

1 selecting a preferred policy based on the policy closest to the local policies  
2 and within the intersection of the conflicting policies.

3  
4 15. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the preferred  
5 policy represents a preferred range of values associated with at least one of the  
6 multiple policies.

7  
8 16. (Original) A method as recited in claim 15 further comprising  
9 deleting policies that are outside the preferred range of values.

10  
11 17. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the policies are  
12 event-handling policies.

13  
14 18. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the policies  
15 determine how an associated device is configured.

16  
17 19. (Original) One or more computer-readable memories containing a  
18 computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited  
19 in claim 14.

20  
21 20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
22 a storage device configured to store a merged policy set; and  
23 a management module coupled to the storage device and configured to  
24 identify multiple policies to be merged into the merged policy set, wherein the  
25 management module adds non-conflicting policies to the merged policy set and

1 resolves conflicts among conflicting policies by selecting a preferred policy based  
2 on an allowed range of policy values.

3 wherein resolving conflicts among conflicting policies includes arranging  
4 conflicting policy templates in order from global policies to local policies, the  
5 arranging act creating a listing that includes a global policy template at one end  
6 and a local policy template at another end, determining the intersection of the  
7 conflicting policy templates, at least a plurality of the conflicting policy templates  
8 falling at least partially within the intersection, and selecting the preferred policy  
9 template based on the policy template that is closest to the local policies and  
10 within the intersection of the conflicting policy templates.

11  
12 21. (Canceled)

13  
14 22. (Canceled)

15  
16 23. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein the  
17 management module is part of an enterprise computing system.

18  
19 24. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein the  
20 management module receives event data generated by a plurality of event  
21 providers coupled to the management module.

22  
23 25. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein the multiple  
24 policies define how devices are configured in an enterprise.  
25

1           26. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein the multiple  
2 policies identify the types of events that are provided to each device in an  
3 enterprise.

4  
5           27. (Canceled)

6  
7           28. (Canceled)

8  
9           29. (Canceled)